

Nailsea School

Music Development Plan



Headteacher Mrs D. Elliott



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Music development plan summary: Nailsea School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-5
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Dan Pate
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rachel Davies
Name of local music hub	West of England Music Alliance
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At the heart of the music curriculum is the belief that everyone is a musician. Over the course of KS3 students become musicians who are able to confidently take part in musical activity in a range of different forms. They learn and improve as musicians so that they can continue to take part in music in whatever form they choose (through further study or outside of formal education) throughout their lives. The curriculum aims to tap in to the enthusiasm that teenagers have for music through a range of topics that are relevant to them, reflecting their own musical interests, as well as introducing them to new musical styles and cultures. Students come in to music from different starting points, influenced by the music education they have had at primary school and whether they have done musical activity outside of this (eg singing at home, taking instrumental lessons). The curriculum aims for ambitious outcomes to all students regardless of previous experience, through regular differentiation to meet these diverse needs. The KS3 curriculum prepares students for further study at KS4 and KS5, but also has an important place for students who will not go on to study the topic formally in the



future, equipping them for life as a musician regardless of their pathway. KS3 Music lessons have a practical focus, making the most of curriculum time by always retaining a focus on music making and listening. At KS4 students have the option to study GCSE Music (Edexcel) or vocational music (Edquas first award Performing Arts). At KS5 the school has previously run A Level Music (Edexcel), vocational music (RSL) and A Level Music Technology (Edexcel). The music extra-curricular provision supports the curriculum through a range of ensemble groups and clubs giving students the opportunity for students to continue to develop their skills outside of the classroom.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We are currently running a band which plays music from a variety of genres including jazz, pop, rock and classical. This is open to all, regardless of ability and music is arranged according to each student's level. We have a choir which is open to all which sings a range of pop and musical theatre both accompanied and acapella in harmony. Our string ensemble is run by our fantastic strings teacher and focusses on classical pieces for mixed ability. We have a music theory group for students wanting to further their theory knowledge, a music tech club for those who want time to develop their composing skills, and bookable practice rooms for students to explore instruments and play in bands. We plan to develop this range of clubs further in future to include different instrument combinations, eg. A separate orchestra and jazz band, when staffing allows. We host regular concerts in school, both in the evenings and lunchtime.

We have a range of peripatetic teachers who deliver lessons in all instruments that are requested by students, provided by the West of England Music Alliance (alongside some excellent private teachers). We currently have around 70 students taking lessons, and plan to expand this in future.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

We host regular in school concerts, including an evening showcase 2-3 times per year where families are invited to come and watch our ensemble groups (as well as small groups and individuals) perform songs they have been learning. We also host "live lunchtime" concerts for students to perform to their peers during a lunch break towards the end of term. In 2024 we ran a music tour to Belgium, during which students performed in a variety of locations including market squares and churches, and toured a local concert hall (as well as going to a



theme park!) In future we plan to offer trips to both perform and watch professional performances when staffing allows.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

In future we plan to offer an even wider range of extra curricular clubs, including a dedicated orchestra and band. As numbers increase, we would like to run separate choirs for lower and upper school. We also plan to expand the range of trips we offer, continuing to offer a regular music tour and also offering opportunities to perform and see professional performers outside of school. The school have recently appointed a new head of drama, and we aim to run a whole school musical as a collaborative project in the future.